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Message Text

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20
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-02 AID-05 FDRE-00 DPW-01 SCA-01 VO-03

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 DODE-00 PM-03 /066 W
---------- 114834
O R 220543Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3111
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6963

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AREF, CB, TH
SUBJ: MEETING WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: A) BANGKOK 6779 B) BANGKOK 6798

SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFICIALS MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNHCR, ICEM AND ICRC ON APRIL 21. WE CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT AND ACTION. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THEY CAN BE GEARED UP TO MOVE OR THAT OTHER COUNTRIES CAN BE LINED UP TO RECEIVE REFUGEES WITHIN THE THIRTY DAY PERIOD SET BY THE RTG. PAROLE AUTHORITY IS SOUGHT IMMEDIATELY. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY OFFICIALS MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM), AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) ON MONDAY, APRIL 21. ONE MEETING WAS WITH MESSRS KADRY AND RASANAYAGAN OF THE UNHCR. SEPARATE MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH MR. S.K. CHRISTENSEN OF ICEM AND WITH ANDRE TSHIFFELI OF ICRC, AND THEN THERE WAS A JOINT MEETING WITH THE ICEM AND ICRC REPRESENTATIVES.

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2. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT THE UNHCR WILL -8,

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-0049;-) 9* 5#3 45& 59 294(9, 5#3 :-.?9$8-, 43*7&33 049?)3..
MR. KADRY SHOWS RELUCTANCE TO APPROACH THE RTG. THE HESITANCE
IS EVIDENTLY WELL FOUNDED SINCE THE ICRC REPRESENTATIVE SAID
A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL HAD TOLD HIM
CANDIDLY SOME SIX MONTHS AGO THAT HE HAD DISPLEASED THE MINISTRY
WHEN HE HAD TAKEN THE FORMER UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE ON A CALL
WITH HIM. MFA ALSO TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL THAT IT WAS NOT ANXIOUS
TO WORK WITH THE UNHCR (REF B).

3. THE ICEM REPRESENTATIVE, WHO IS DANISH, IS SEEKING TO
ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT THROUGH THE DANISH AMBASSADOR WITH
APPROPRIATE MFA OFFICIALS ON APRIL 22. HE WILL BE IN TOUCH
WITH US AFTER THE MEETING.

4. ONCE ENTRY INTO COUNTRIES HAS BEEN ARRANGED, THE ICRC
IS WILLING TO ISSUE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO CAMBODIAN REFUGEES.
THE REPRESENTATIVE WANTS TO AVOID PUBLICITY, HOWEVER, SINCE
HE DOES NOT WISH TO ENDANGER ICRC PERSONNEL REMAINING IN
CAMBODIA NOR JEOPARDIZE ICRC RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERN-
MENT THERE.

5. ALL THREE REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED THE VIEW IT WOULD BE
UNLIKELY THAT OTHER NATIONS WOULD RUSH TO ACCEPT CAMBODIAN
REFUGEES AT THIS POINT IN TIME. NATIONS WILL BE CONCERNED
OVER THE EFFECT SUCH AN ACTION MIGHT HAVE ON THEIR
RELATIONS WITH THE NEW KHMER GOVERNMENT AND ALSO OVER THE
IMPLICATIONS IT MIGHT HAVE SHOULD LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES MATERIALIZE. THE REPRESENTATIVES IMPLIED THAT THE
SMALL NUMBER OF KHMER INVOLVED AND THE FACT THAT THEY WERE
LARGELY USG EMPLOYEES (OR THEIR DEPENDENTS) MAKES PAROLE
INTO THE US OR THEIR RETURN TO CAMBODIA THE MOST LIKELY
SOLUTION.

6. WE ARE PUSHING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
AGENCIES. IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT OR THE
ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT CAMBODIAN
REFUGEES WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD STIPULATED BY THE RTG CAN BE
ACHIEVED. AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE WE MUST MAKE A SHOWING
TO THE THAIS BY MOVING A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES ONWARD
WITHIN THE THIRTY DAY PERIOD STIPULATED BY THEM. THE FIRST
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REFUGEES ARRIVED ON APRIL 3.

7. WE THEREFORE URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT QUICKLY OBTAIN
AND GIVE US AUTHORITY TO PROCESS VIA PAROLE, FOR ENTRY INTO
THE US AT LEAST ALL THE CAMBODIANS (APPROXIMATELY 1,100)
BROUGHT TO THAILAND BY US OFFICIAL TRANSPORTATION.
MASTERS

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